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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[COTP Corpus Christi-03-008]

USCG-2004-16938-4

RIN 1625 - AA00

Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Port Aransas, TX

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone extending 800 yards in all directions around the barge INTERMAC 600 while it is loading the DEVILS TOWER offshore production rig from the McDermott yard on Harbor Island at red beacon number 2 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel adjacent to the Port Aransas ferry landing. The safety zone is needed to ensure vessel traffic does not disturb the loading operations. Wakes from passing ships would cause undue stress on crane cables. Entry into this safety zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Corpus Christi or a designated representative.

DATES: This rule is effective from 7 a.m. CDT on November 6, 2003, until 7 p.m. CDT on November 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket [COTP Corpus Christi-03-008] and are available for inspection or copying at Marine Safety Office Corpus Christi, 555 N. Carancahua, Suite 500, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78478 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant (LT) Brian Moore, Chief Waterways Management, Marine Safety Office Corpus Christi, Texas, at (361) 888-3162 x501 or via e-mail at bemoore@MSOCorpusChristi.uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Information

We did not publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for this regulation. Under 5 U.S.C. 553 (b) (3) (B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing an NPRM, and under 5 U.S.C. 553 (d) (3), good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Publishing an NPRM and delaying its effective date would be contrary to public interest because immediate action is needed to protect the INTERMAC 600 and the DEVILS TOWER offshore production rig during the loading operations, as well as transiting mariners.

Background and Purpose

The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone extending 800 yards in all directions around the barge INTERMAC 600 while it is loading the DEVILS TOWER offshore production rig from the McDermott yard on Harbor Island at red beacon number 2 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel adjacent to the Port Aransas ferry landing. The safety zone is needed to ensure vessel traffic does not disturb the loading operations by causing undue stress on crane cables as a result of vessel wake. Entry into this safety zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Corpus Christi or a designated representative.

Discussion of Rule

The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone extending 800 yards in all directions around the barge INTERMAC 600 while it is loading the DEVILS TOWER offshore production rig from the McDermott yard on Harbor Island at red beacon number 2 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel adjacent to the Port Aransas ferry landing. The safety zone is needed to ensure vessel traffic does not disturb the loading operations by causing undue stress on crane cables as a result of vessel wake. Entry into this safety zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Corpus Christi or a designated representative.

This rule is effective from 7 a.m. CDT on November 6, 2003, until 7 p.m. CDT on November 6, 2003.

Regulatory Evaluation

This rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not "significant" under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

This rule will only be in effect for a short period of time and notifications to the marine community will be made through broadcast notice to mariners. The impacts on routine navigation are expected to be minimal.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 - 612), we have considered whether this rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term "small entities" comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in

their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This rule will affect the following entities, some of which may be small entities: the owners or operators of deep draft ships, towing vessels and commercial and recreational fishing vessels intending to transit the Corpus Christi Ship Channel in the vicinity of Harbor Island at red beacon number 2 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel adjacent to the Port Aransas ferry landing from 7 a.m. CDT until 7 p.m. CDT on November 6, 2003. This safety zone will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because there are alternate routes around the closure site such as Lydia Ann Channel and the tributary channel to Aransas Pass. Additionally, this rule will only be in effect for a short period of time.

If you are a small business entity and feel that you are significantly affected by this regulation please contact Lieutenant Brian Moore, Marine Safety Office Corpus Christi at (362) 888-3162.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), we offered to assist small entities in understanding the rule so they could better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process. Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Collection of Information

This rule calls for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 - 3520).

Federalism

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, if it has a substantial direct effect on State or local governments and would either preempt State law or impose a substantial direct cost of compliance on them. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have

determined that it does not have implications for federalism.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

Taking of Private Property

This rule will not affect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not create an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Indian Tribal Governments

This rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct affect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

Energy Effects

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use. We have determined that it is not a "significant energy action" under that Order because it is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866 and is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. The Administrator of the

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has not designated it as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a Statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, which guides the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f), and have concluded that there are no factors in this case that would limit the use of a categorical exclusion under section 2.B.2 of the Instruction. Therefore, this rule is categorically excluded, under figure 2-1, paragraph (34)(g), of the Instruction, from further environmental documentation because this rule is not expected to result in any significant adverse environmental impact as described in NEPA.

Under figure 2-1, paragraph (34)(g), of the Instruction, an "Environmental Analysis Check List" and a "Categorical Exclusion Determination" are not required for this rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

Part 165--REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1226, 1231; 46 U.S.C. Chapter 701; 50 U.S.C. 191; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g), 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5; Pub. L. 107-295, 116 Stat. 2064; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

2. A new temporary § 165.T08-~~159~~ is added to read as follows:

§ 165.T08-~~159~~ Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel Port Aransas, TX.

(a) Location. The following area is a safety zone: all waters within 800 yards of the barge INTERMAC 600 while it is carrying the DEVILS TOWER offshore production rig, in the vicinity of Harbor Island, Texas at red beacon number 2 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel adjacent to the Port Aransas ferry landing.

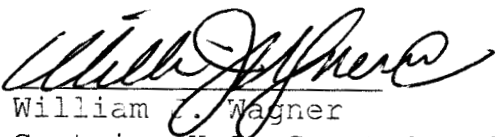
(b) Effective date. This rule is effective from 7 a.m. CDT until 7 p.m. CDT on November 6, 2003.

(c) Regulations. (1) In accordance with the general regulations in §165.23 of this part, entry into this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Corpus Christi.

(2) Persons or vessels requiring entry into or passage through the zone must request permission from the Captain of the Port Corpus Christi or a designated representative. They may be contacted on VHF Channel 12 or 16, or by telephone at (361) 888-3162.

(3) All persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the Captain of the Port Corpus Christi or designated on-scene U.S. Coast Guard patrol personnel. On-scene U.S. Coast Guard patrol personnel include commissioned, warrant, and petty officers of the U.S. Coast Guard.

DATED: NOV 5 2003


William L. Wagner
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port